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GB 1541865 GB 1189130

(58) Field of search
A4M
Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class A47C

(54) Seat

(57) A seat in the form of an enlarged container has a flexible and resilient wall defining a space partially filled with material which will support the weight of a person seated thereon.

The container may take the form of any household foodstuffs or other provisions and is sufficiently large to accommodate an adult.

The interior of the seat is partially filled with a compactable material which will conform to the shape of a person sitting on the seat.

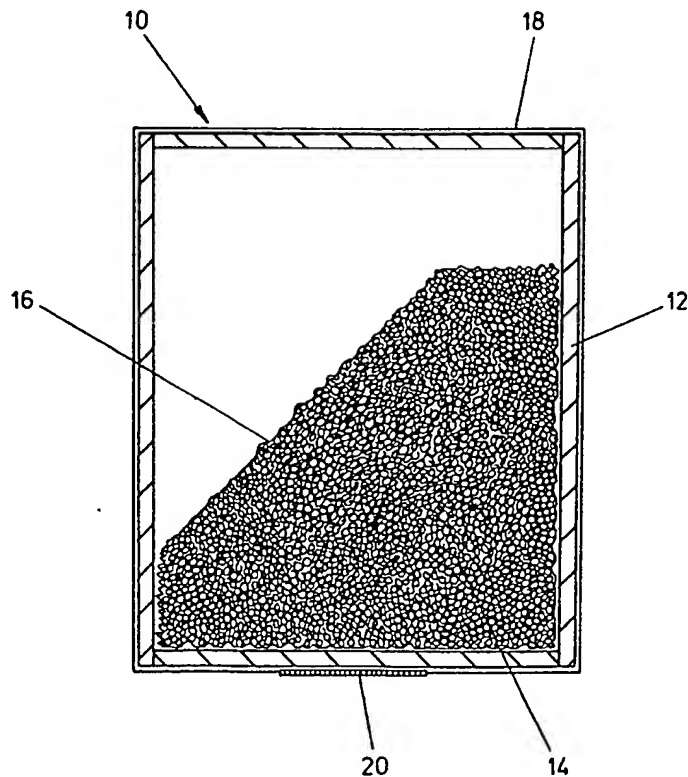


FIG. 1

The drawings originally filed were informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal copy.
The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

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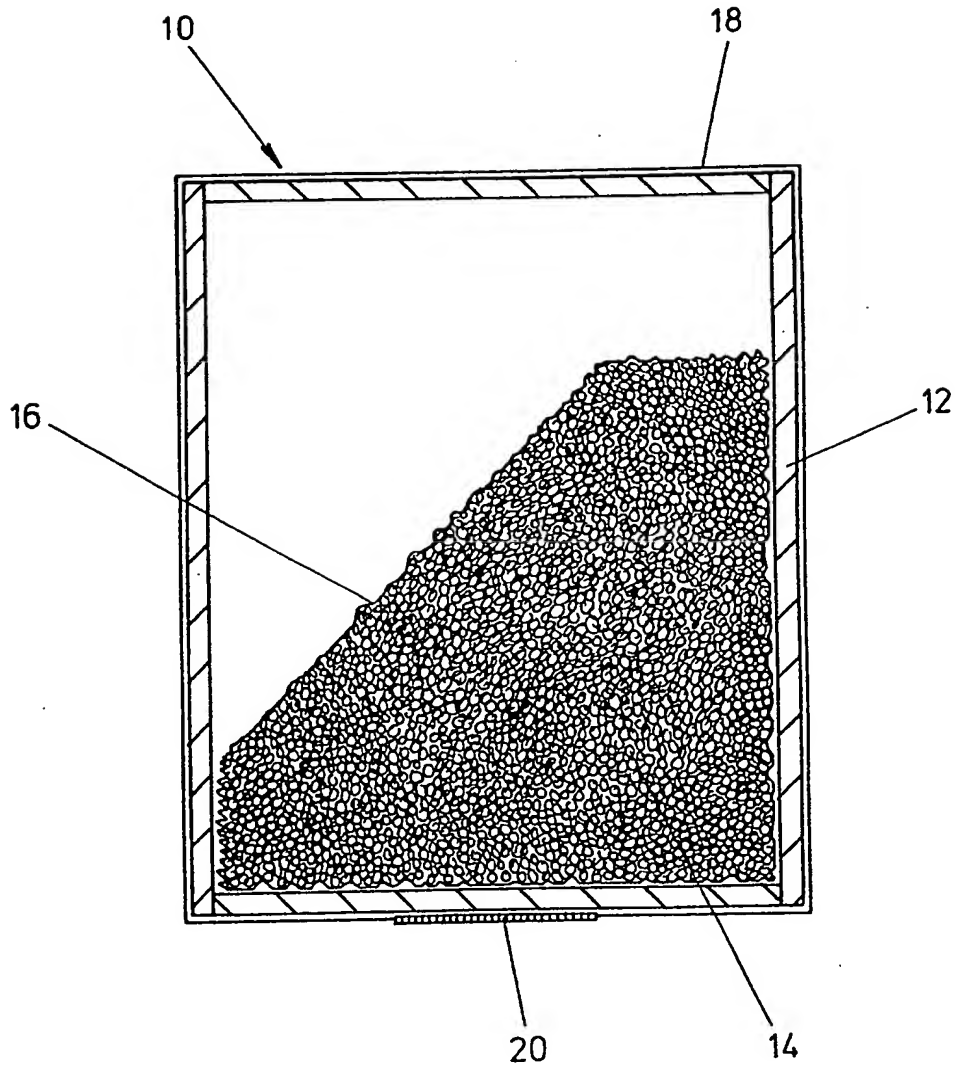


FIG. 1

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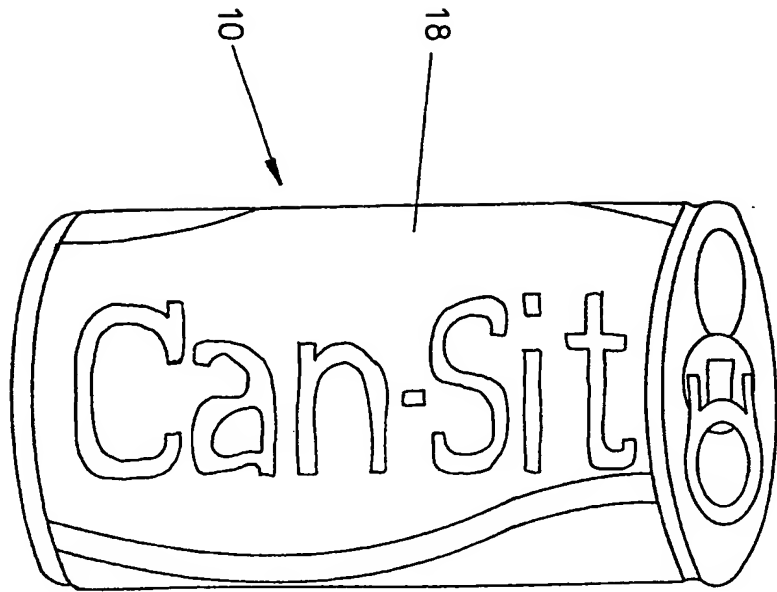


FIG. 2

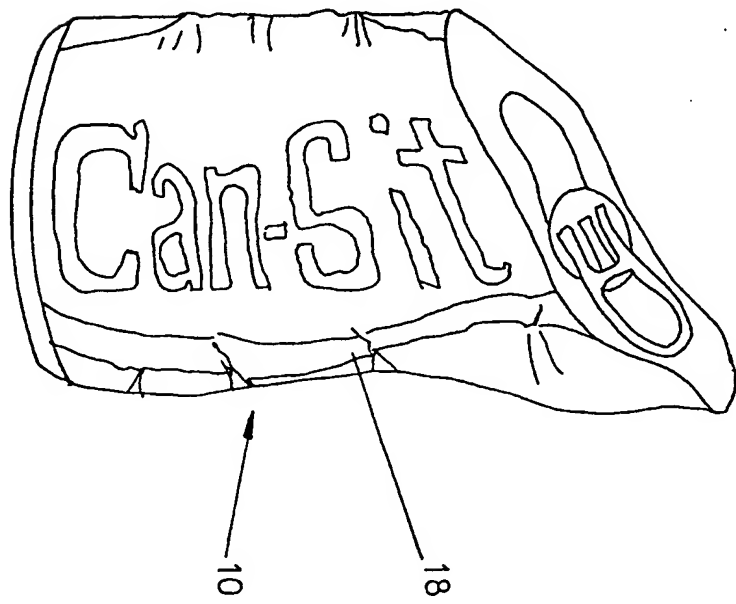


FIG. 3

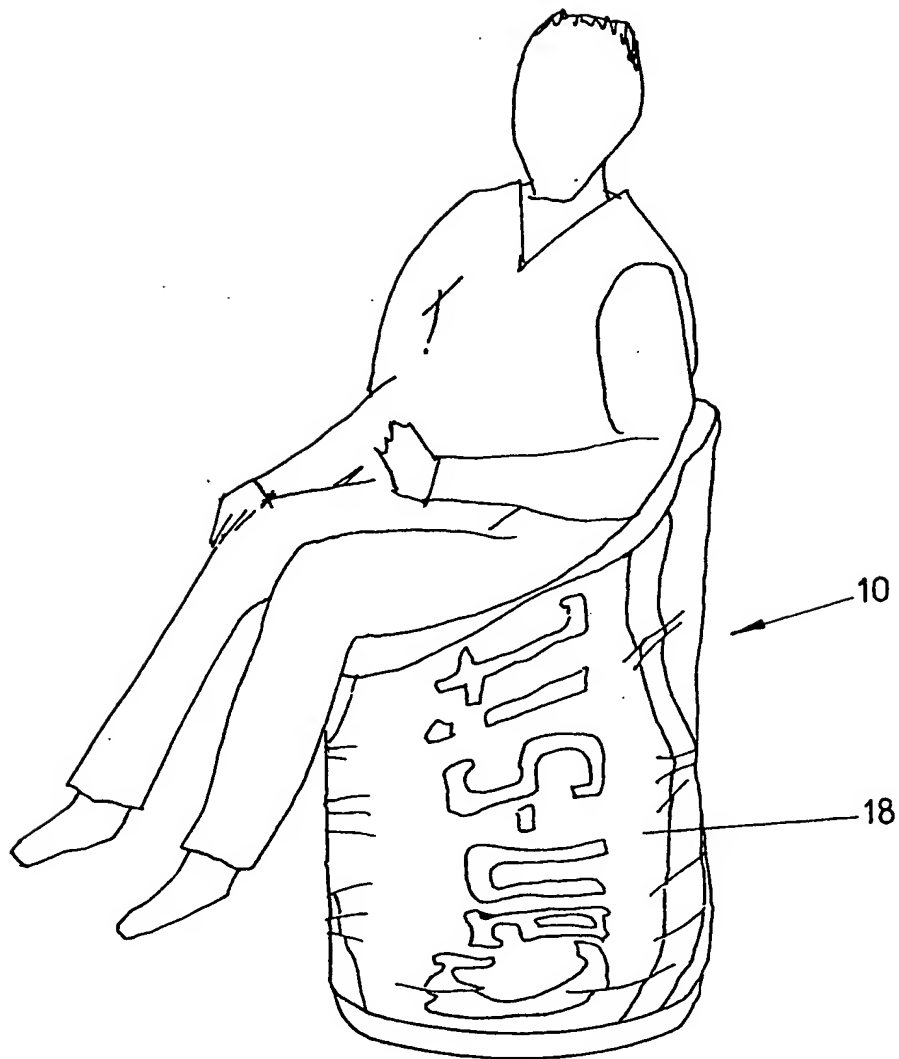


FIG. 4

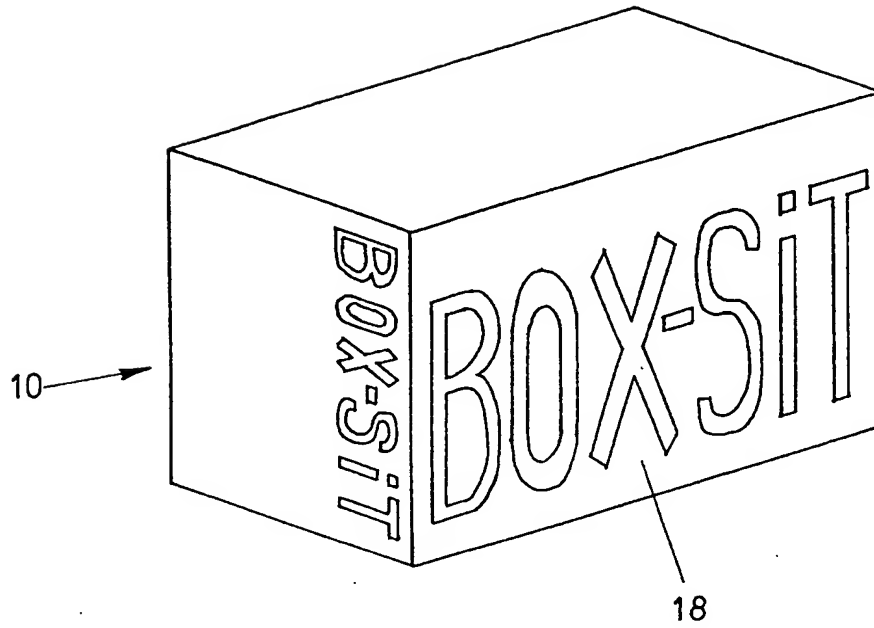


FIG. 5

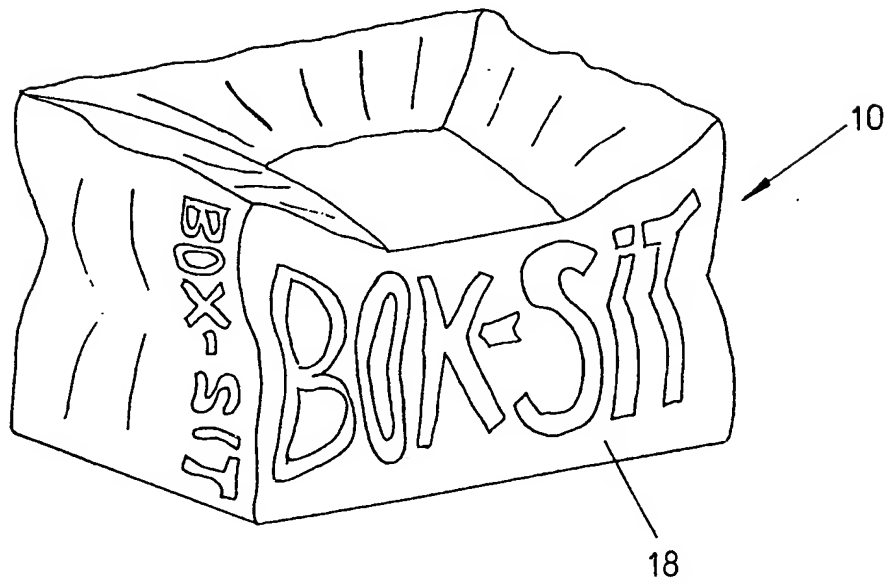


FIG. 6

SPECIFICATION

Occasional Furniture

The present invention relates to occasional furniture, and more particularly to a novel form of seat.

Seats and chairs which are widely used at present are usually rigid structures having four legs. Such seats are satisfactory for most purposes but, they are often not suitable for 'lounging' in, i.e. one usually has to sit upright in a conventional seat. Furthermore if a person sits down too heavily in a conventional seat, it is quite possible for the seat to be damaged.

Bean-bags have been on the market for some time now but they can not be described as a seat as such, and moreover they do not provide adequate support.

The present invention intends to provide a form of seat which overcomes or reduces the above disadvantages.

According to the present invention there is provided a seat in the form of an enlarged container, said seat having a flexible and resilient wall defining a space partially filled with material which will support the weight of a person seated thereon.

Said container may take the form of any household foodstuffs or other provisions. The seat is sufficiently large to accommodate an adult, although smaller versions can be made for use primarily by children.

Preferably the container will take the shape of a can or box but it will be appreciated that other containers, such as mugs or the like, could be used without detracting from the scope of the invention.

Preferably the seat is constructed from a hollow wall of suitable material, such as polyurethane foam.

The filling is preferably a compactable material such as polystyrene bead, granulated polyurethane foam or polyester fibre.

Preferably said material is deformable to conform to the shape of the person sitting in the seat.

Preferably the filling occupies between one third and two thirds of the volume of the seat in order that the seat is able to collapse to a certain degree.

The filling is preferably, but not necessarily, held inside a loose bag in the interior of the seat similar to the well known bean-bags.

The seat is preferably covered with a suitable decorative textile material which may be vinyl, leather, or woven or printed fabric having a decorative surface design.

Preferably the seat cover is able to be removed by means of a zip closure so that alternative seat covers can be used. This gives the appearance of a different seat altogether when a different cover is used.

The invention will be described further, by way of example, with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:—

Figure 1 is an illustration showing the basic construction of the seat;

Figure 2 shows the exterior of the seat laid on its side when the seat takes the form of a ring-pull can;

Figure 3 is a view corresponding to Figure 2

showing the collapsing nature of the seat;

Figure 4 shows the seat being sat upon by a person;

Figure 5 illustrates an alternative design wherein the seat takes the form of a box; and

Figure 6 is a view corresponding to Figure 5 showing the box in a collapsed state.

Although the invention will be specifically described in terms of a ring-pull can, it will be understood that the seat can take the form of any suitable container.

A seat 10, generally having the appearance of an enlarged coca-cola can, comprises a wall 12 of polyurethane foam or the like which defines the overall shape of said seat. The seat 10 is typically cylindrical in shape. A filling material 14, such as polystyrene beads, is contained inside the seat and this material is held inside an inner bag 16. The filling material occupies between one third and two thirds of the volume of the seat 10 which gives said seat volume to collapse. A seat cover 18, being of vinyl or other suitable material and having a decorative surface design, surrounds the seat 10 and may be replaced when required. A zip fastener 20 is provided as an integral part of the seat cover 18 which enables said seat cover to be removed and replaced. Other features, such as a handle, may be provided to assist in moving the article.

An alternative embodiment is shown in Figures 5 and 6 in which the seat takes the form of a cuboidal box, such as an oxo cube container. The underlying principle, however, is the same as with that of the can.

In use of the seat, a person sits upon the top portion of said seat as shown in Figure 4. The body of the seat collapses until it reaches the filling material. This filling material subsequently provides support for the user, since it conforms to the user's body shape. When the person using the seat gets up, the seat will regain its original shape due to the presence of the polyurethane foam shell which will spring back into the appropriate shape.

A distinct advantage of the invention is that it is much stronger than a conventional seat, since it is virtually indestructible, and it is very comfortable when one feels like 'sprawling out'. Children will also find the seat much more fun than a normal seat and furthermore it is inherently safer, since there are no hard or sharp edges to hurt oneself upon.

CLAIMS

1. A seat in the form of an enlarged container, said seat having a flexible and resilient wall defining a space partially filled with material which will support the weight of a person seated thereon.

2. A seat according to claim 1 in which the container takes the shape of a can or a box.

3. A seat according to claim 1 or claim 2 which is constructed from a hollow wall of suitable material.

4. A seat according to any of claims 1 to 3 which has an interior partially filled with a compactable material.

5. A seat according to any of the preceding claims in which the filling material occupies between one third and two thirds of the volume of the seat.

6. A seat according to any of the preceding claims wherein the filling material is held inside a loose bag in the interior of the seat.
7. A seat according to any of the preceding claims which is covered with a decorative textile material seat cover.
8. A seat according to any of the preceding claims wherein the seat cover is able to be removed by means of a zip closure so that alternative seat covers can be fitted.
9. A seat substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
10. A seat according to claim 1 and substantially as herein described.